

Date Mailed
May 21, 1998

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Wisconsin Gas Company, as a Gas
Public Utility, for Authority to Construct Facilities
And Render Natural Gas Service in the Town of
Apple River, Polk County, Wisconsin

6650-CG-191

**NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION
AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

Wisconsin Gas Company (WGC), as a gas public utility, filed an application with the Commission on May 13, 1998, for authority under s. 196.49, Stats., and Chapter PSC 133, Wis. Adm. Code, to construct facilities and render natural gas service in the Town of Apple River, Polk County, Wisconsin.

WGC is a gas public utility, as defined in s. 196.01(5), Stats., with its principal office at 626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. WGC is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas in the City of Milwaukee and its suburban areas and in other Wisconsin cities, villages, and towns. WGC presently provides natural gas service in the immediate vicinity of the Town of Apple River, including the Towns of Balsam Lake, Lincoln, and Beaver, Polk County.

No natural gas utility is currently authorized to provide natural gas service in the Town of Apple River, Polk County. The Town of Apple River adopted an ordinance on November 10, 1997, granting Wisconsin Gas Company the authority to provide natural gas service in the Town of Apple River.

The project location is Section 6 in the Town of Apple River. WGC proposes to build 1,473 feet of 2-inch plastic natural gas main on easement along a private road that provides access to eleven residential customers at an estimated direct cost of \$12,605. The project main is connected on the west side to existing facilities serving residences on Balsam Lake in the Town of Balsam Lake.

The cost estimate does not include joint expense and general administrative overhead. Extensions of service to the proposed customers will be in accordance with WGC's currently filed Extension of Distribution Facility Rules.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission will investigate the application without hearing.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary in order to carry out its duties to investigate the books, accounts, practices and activities of Wisconsin Gas Company, as a gas public utility. The expenses incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to the investigation will be assessed against and collected from Wisconsin Gas Company as a gas public utility, under s. 196.85, Stats., and Chapter PSC 5, Wis. Adm. Code.

This is a Type III action under s. 4.10(3), Wis. Adm. Code. No unusual circumstances suggesting the likelihood of significant environmental consequences have come to the Commission's attention. Neither an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11, Stats., nor an environmental assessment is required.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact John R. Vogt, Natural Gas Division at (608) 267-3374.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

For the Commission:

Anita Sprenger, Administrator
Natural Gas Division

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